

Message Text

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ACTION EA-12

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C O N F I D E N T I A L MANILA 5694

C O R R E C T E D C O P Y (TEXT--PARA TWO LINE FIVE ADDED)

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, SHUM, RP

SUBJ: LEGISLATIVE ELECTIONS: MARCOS ORDERS MOST DEMONSTRATORS

RELEASED: KBL STILL AHEAD IN VOTE COUNT IN MANILA

REF: MANILA 5618, MANILA 5617

1. SUMMARY: ALL BUT EIGHT ARRESTED LABAN DEMONSTRATORS HAVE BEEN RELEASED, BUT CHARGES AGAINST ALL 562 REMAIN. WITH 20 PERCENT OF THE METRO MANILA VOTE NOW OFFICIALLY COUNTED, KBL IS STILL WELL AHEAD. A NEW PRESIDENTIAL DECREE ALLOWS THE KBL TO NAME REPLACEMENTS FOR ANY KBL WINNERS WHO DIE BEFORE ASSUMING OFFICE. MRS. MARCOS AND OTHER GOVERNORS AND MAYORS WHO WENT ON LEAVE TO BE IBP CANDIDATES MAY NOW RESUME OFFICE, ALTHOUGH WINNING CANDIDATES MUST RESIGN AGAIN WHEN THEY TAKE IBP OFFICE.
END SUMMARY.

2. PRESIDENT MARCOS, AFTER A FIVE-HOUR CABINET MEETING APRIL 11, ORDERED THE RELEASE OF ALL BUT EIGHT OF THE 562 LABAN DEMONSTRATORS ARRESTED APRIL 9. THE EIGHT STILL DETAINED ARE LABAN CAMPAIGN MANAGER LORENZO TANADA, LABAN CANDIDATES RODRIGO, GUINGONA, RONDON AND PIMENTEL, LABAN
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LAWYER JOKER ARROYO, AND ROMEO ENTENGAN. MOST OF THESE, MARCOS SAID, ARE ON TEMPORARY RELEASE FROM PREVIOUS DETENTION AND HAVE VIOLATED THE TERMS OF THEIR RELEASE. ALL 562 REMAIN CHARGED WITH ILLEGAL ASSEMBLY, SEDITION, AND INCITING TO SEDITION. MARCOS SAID THAT, ALTHOUGH THEY ARE BEING CHARGED IN A MILITARY COURT, THEY MIGHT BE TRIED BY CIVILIAN COURTS.

3. OFFICIAL COMELEC RESULTS AS OF 1700 APRIL 11, COVERING 2,280 METRO MANILA PRECINCTS (ABOUT 20 PERCENT OF THE TOTAL VOTE) CONTINUED TO SHOW KBL WINNING ALL SEATS. MRS. MARCOS LEADS WITH 366,488 VOTES, FOLLOWED BY ROMULO AND TOLentino. LABAN LEADER AQUINO HAS 257,562; THIS IS 49,213 VOTES LESS THAN THE LOWEST KBL CANDIDATE. (COMMENT: THE SLOWNESS OF COMELEC'S OFFICIAL TABULATION FOR METRO MANILA IS PRODUCING CONSIDERABLE SPECULATION. SOME SOURCES WORRY THAT COMELEC MAY BE MANIPULATING THE TALLY TO ENSURE A KBL SWEEP. OTHER THEORIES INCLUDE: THAT THE COUNT IS BEING STRUNG OUT TO HELP DEFUSE THE POLITICAL SITUATION; THAT THE OPTION IS BEING KEPT OPEN OF ALLOWING ONE OR TWO LABAN CANDIDATES TO WIN IN CASE OF SUBSTANTIAL FOREIGN OR DEMESTIC PROTEST; AND THAT COMELEC IS NO MORE EFFICIENT THAN SOME OTHER GOVERNMENT AGENCIES. END COMMENT.)

4. IN THE PROVINCES, THE ONLY NON-KBL WINNERS APPEAR TO BE THE 13 PUSYON BISAYA CANDIDATES WHO ARE EVIDNETLY SWEEPING REGION VII (CEBU), AND MINDANAO ALLIANCE'S REUBEN CANOY IN REGION XI (CAGAYAN DE ORO).

5. MARCOS APRIL 11 ISSUED PRESIDENTIAL DECREE NO. 1348 (AMENDING THE 19(ELECTION CODE) PROVIDING THAT, IF A WINNING CANDIDATE DIES, FAILS TO QUALIFY OR IS INCAPACITATED BEFORE ASSUMING OFFICE IN THE IBP, THE IBP "SHALL CONFIDENTIAL

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APPOINT THE REPLACEMENT UPON NOMINATION OF THE POLITICAL PARTY OR GROUP WHICH NOMINATED THE DECREASED CANDIDATE." (COMMENT: SINCE SEVERAL MANILA KBL CANDIDATES ARE QUITE OLD, THERE WAS REPORTED CONCERN IN THE GOP THAT AQUINO, AS RUNNER-UP, MIGHT GAIN AN IBP SEAT THROUGH THE DEATH OF ONE OF THEM. END COMMENT.)

6. THE DEPARTMENT OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT SAID APRIL 11 THAT GOVERNORS AND MAYORS WHO RAN FOR THE IBP MAY NOW RESUME THEIR POSITIONS. THEY HAD BEEN ON "FORCED LEAVE" WHILE THEY WERE CANDIDATES. WINNING CANDIDATES MUST RESIGN AGAIN WHEN THEY TAKE THEIR OATH OF OFFICE AS IBP MEMBERS. STULL

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